

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 SAM-01 /088 W

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R 290858Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0954

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINS ID PO PT AS

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) DEVELOPMENTS

REF: JAKARTA 12795 (200901Z OCT 75)

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS CONTINUING ADVANCE OF PRO-
INDONESIAN FORCES TOWARD DILI, CAPTURING TOWN OF BOBONARO

AND FOCING WITHDRAWAL OF FRETELIN UNITS. FONMIN MALIK

DEPARTS SHORTLY FOR NOV 1 TALKS WITH PORTUGUESE IN ROME,

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WHILE FRETELIN APPEALS TO LISBON FOR IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS

ON INDEPENDENCE. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WELCOMES GOI-PORTUGUESE TALKS AND SAYS AUSTRALIA WOULD SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF PT INTO INDONESIA IF LOCAL POPULATION DESIRES IT. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS DPR CHAIRMAN CALLS FOR A RAPID SETTLEMENT OF PT ISSUE AND INFORMIN DOUBTS DECOLONIZATION CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN ORDERLY MANNER. END SUMMARY.

1. BATTLEFIELD. APODETI/ACM FORCES REPORTED THE CAPTURE OF BOBONARO OCT 22 AFTER OVERCOMING SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE AND KILLING 100 FRETILIN DEFENDERS. (BOBONARO IS 15 KM EAST OF MALIANA AND 60 KM FROM DILI.) MAIN COLUMN APODETI/ACM FORCES NOW REPORTED APPROACHING CAILACAO ON THE WAY TO ATABAI. ONE REPORT SAYS APODETI/ACM UNITS ALSO NEARING COASTAL TOWN OF MAUBARA ONLY 25 KM FROM DILI. (MAP OF MILITARY SITUATION DRAWN BY SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES AND PUBLISHED OCT 28 IN SINAR HARAPAN SHOWS APODETI/ACM TROOPS ALREADY FAR BEYOND ATABAI.) FRETILIN LEADER OLIVEIRA LOBATO ADMITTED WITHDRAWAL OF FIVE COMPANIES OF WEEL-ARMED FRETILIN TROOPS FROM MALIANA-BOBONARO SECTOR BUT CLAIMED THIS DUE TO DANGER OF FLOODS. JAKARTA PRESS AGAIN REPORTS FRETILIN USING WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS SHIELDS FOR TROOPS, AND ADDS THAT FRETILIN NOW USING SCORCHED EARTH TACTICS IN TOWNS BETWEEN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS AND DILI.

2. NEGOTIATIONS. GOI FONMIN MALIK IS SCHEDLUED TO DEPART OCT 30 OR 31 FOR NEGOTIATIONS NOV 1 WITH PORTUGUESE IN WESTERN EUROPE (ROME SITE NOT YET ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY). MALIK TOLD NEWSMEN INDONESIA DID NOT MIND IF DECOLONIZATION OF PT DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1978 BUT THE PRESENT SITUATION COULD NOT BE TOLERATED. HE RE-ITERATED THAT GOI PREPARED TO HELP RESTORE SECURITY AND ORDER IN PT, AND DESCRIBED AS "PANICKY AND FRANTIC" FRETILIN'S DESIRE FOR TALKS WITH INDONESIA, PORTUGAL, AND OTHER TWO FACTIONS IN PT. MEANWHILE, FRETILIN HAS ASKED PORTUGAL TO IMMEDIATELY SET A DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON PT INDEPENDENCE, HOPEFULLY TO TAKE PLACE IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF NOVEMBER. FRETILIN REPORTEDLY INVITED OBSERVERS TO WITNESS THAT PT IS PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY AND UNDER THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONTROL OF FRETILIN.

3. RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA. SPEAKING IN BANDUNG OCT 26,
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AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WOLCOTT SAID HE WELCOMED TALKS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PORTUGAL TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR. HE DENIED ACCUSATIONS THAT GOA HAD SIDED WITH FRETILIN AND ENCOURAGED ITS ACTIONS, AND SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF PT INTO INDONESIA IF THAT WERE THE CHOICE OF ITS PEOPLE. THE INDONESIAN SHIP "GUNUNG TAMBORA" WAS DELAYED FOUR DAYS IN MELBOURNE BY A BOYCOTT OF DOCK WORKERS PROTESTING INDONESIA'S TIMOR POLICY, BUT BOYCOTT WAS ENDED

OCT 27 FOLLOWING AN APPEAL TO THE LABOR UNION BY FONMIN MALIK
NOT TO LET FRETELIN PROPAGANDA DISRUPT THE CLOSE RELATIONS
BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA. BODIES OF FOUR WHITES
FOUND AT BALIBO OCT 20 AND PRESUMED TO BE THOSE OF
MISSING AUSTRALIAN REPORTERS STILL HAVE NOT BEEN
POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED.

4. STATEMENTS BY GOI OFFICIALS. DPR CHAIRMAN IDHAM CHALID
AT OPENING OF HOUSE SESSION OCT 20 CALLED FOR SWIFT SETTLEMENT
OF PT ISSUE IN VIEW OF BURDEN IMPOSED ON INDONESIA IN
CARING FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES (OVER 36,000)
FROM THE COLONY. INFORMATION MINISTER MASHURI EXPRESSED
DOUBT OCT 21 THAT PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION IN PT COULD BE
IMPLEMENTED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER AND REGRETTED THE
PREVALENCE OF TERRORIST PRACTICES. DEFENSE MINISTER
GENERAL PANGGABEAN TOLD AN ABRI LEADERSHIP MEETING OCT 22
THAT THE GOI HAD NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS BUT WELCOMED THE
DESIRE OF GROUPS IN PT FOR INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SELFDETERMINATION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART13190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750374-1121
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751010/aaaaajaw.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 12795
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ID, PO, PT, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006